

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

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SUBJ: SPECULATIVE ARTICLE ON PROPOSED BARNARD TRIP
TO WASHINGTON IN FINANCIAL REVIEW APRIL 3.

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF SPECULATIVE ARTICLE WRITTEN
BY BRIAN TOOHEY, FORMER BARNARD STAFF MEMBER, ABOUT
MR. BARNARD' S PROSPECTS IN DISCUSSING DEFENSE FACILITIES
DURING PROPOSED BARNARD VISIT TO WASHINGTON. THE ARTICLE
IS ENTITLED " BARNARD' S DOOMED MISSION ON NW CAPE".

" THE UNITED STATES WILL NEVER AGREE TO JOINT
CONTROL AS PART OF A RENEGOTIATED TREATY ON THE NORTH-
WEST CAPE NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS STATION.

" THIS TOUGH, BUT NOT SURPRISING, STAND IS THE
DOMINANT THEME OF INFORMATION COMING OUT OF WASHINGTON
AT PRESENT.

" ACCORDING TO A SENIOR PENTAGON OFFICIAL, AUSTRALIA
WILL NEVER BE ALLOWED TO SEE, LET ALONE VETO, THE CODED
MESSAGES SENT TO UNITED STATES NUCLEAR SUBMARINES
THROUGH THE NORTH- WEST CAPE BASE.

" THE DEFENCE MINISTER, MR. BARNARD, WILL GO TO
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WASHINGTON DURING THE WINTER PARLIAMENTARY RECESS TO
RENEGOTIATE THE TREATIES COVERING THE U. S. BASES AT
NORTH- WEST CAPE, PINE GAP, AND NURRUNGAR, NEAR WOOMERA.

" HIS CLEAR BRIEF ON NORTH- WEST CAPE IS TO OBTAIN
JOINT CONTROL.

" ALTHOUGH THE U. S. SAYS IT IS PREPARED TO TALK
ABOUT RENEGOTIATING THE NORTH- WEST CAPE TREATY, IT
CLEARLY INTENDS TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING QUITE DIFFERENT
TO WHAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS IN MIND.

" IN HIS STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT IN THE OPENING
WEEK OF THE CURRENT SESSION, MR. BARNARD SAID, IN
REFERRING TO NORTH- WEST CAPE, THAT HE WANTED ' TO OBTAIN
ANY POSSIBILITY THAT AUSTRALIA COULD BE INVOLVED IN
WAR-- AND A NUCLEAR WAR AT THAT-- WITHOUT ITSELF HAVING
ANY POWER OF DECISION.'

" THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. WHITLAM, HAS SUBSEQUENTLY
MADE THE SAME POINT, AS HAS THE VICTORIAN STATE COUNCIL
OF THE ALP.

" IN A FURTHER MOVE AT THE WEEKEND, THE NSW LABOR
WOMEN' S CONFERENCE UNANIMOUSLY PASSED A MOTION CALLING
FOR COMPLETE AUSTRALIAN CONTROL OF THE BASES.

" ALTHOUGH ANY MEANINGFUL MEASURE OF CONTROL IS
OUT OF THE QUESTION AS FAR AS THE U. S. IS CONCERNED, ITS
DEFENCE OFFICIALS SAY THEY ARE QUITE HAPPY TO CONSIDER
SOME FORM OF JOINT STAFFING AND JOINT USAGE OF NORTH-
WEST CAPE.

" AUSTRALIAN SUBMARINES ALREADY MAKE PART- TIME
USE OF THE BASE FOR COMMUNICATIONS PURPOSES.

" THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE LIKELY TO CENTRE AROUND
EXTENDING THE PERIOD INVOLVED AND BEEFING UP THE
PARTICIPATION OF AUSTRALIAN NAVAL STAFF IN SENDING OUT
OWN MESSAGES.

" THE AGREEMENT COVERING NORTH WEST CAPE APPLIES
UNTIL 1988.

" MR. BARNARD MAY FIND IN WASHINGTON THAT HE IS
ABLE TO MAKE MORE HEADWAY ON PINE GAP AND WOOMERA.

" ACCORDING TO ONE PENTAGON OFFICIAL, THERE ARE
STILL SOME ASPECTS OF THESE TWO BASES THAT THE RUSSIANS
WOULD NOT KNOW ABOUT.

" HOWEVER, MOST AUTHORITIES AGREE THE RUSSIANS
WOULD BE AWARE OF ANY ASPECTS RELATING TO EARLY WARNING
AND SURVEILLANCE SATELLITES.

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Z SOME EVEN SUGGEST THAT THE U. S. WOULD HAVE TOLD

THEM OF THESE ROLES AS PART OF THE TALKS ON THE CLAUSE 7
IN THE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT, WHICH STATES
THAT EACH PARTY SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE OTHER'S
'TECHNICAL MEANS OF VERIFICATION' OF THE AGREEMENT.

" THE FEELING IN SOME QUARTERS IN WASHINGTON IS
THAT NO HARM WOULD COME IF THE AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC WERE
TOLD OFFICIALLY ABOUT THESE ASPECTS OF THE BASES.

" MR. WHITLAM HAS ALREADY HINTED STRONGLY AT A
RECENT PARTY MEETING IN VICTORIA THAT THE BASES HAVE A
SURVEILLANCE ROLE.

" PENTAGON OFFICIALS CLAIM THAT THEY HAVE BEEN
MORE WILLING TO ASSIST WITH THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS
SURROUNDING THE BASES THAN IS GENERALLY RECOGNISED IN
AUSTRALIA.

" THEY SAY THAT, SOON AFTER THE LABOR GOVERNMENT
CAME TO POWER, THE U. S. OFFERED TO SEND A TEAM TO
AUSTRALIA TO TALK ABOUT THE BASES, BUT THE AUSTRALIAN
DEFENCE DEPARTMENT REFUSED THE OFFER.

" APPARENTLY THE OFFER WAS NOT TAKEN ANY FURTHER.

" THEY ALSO CLAIM THAT, UNDER THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT,
OFFERS TO PROVIDE GREATER ACCESS TO THE BASES BY PARLIAM-
ENTARIANS WERE TURNED DOWN AT THE AUSTRALIAN END."
RICE

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